

Local Boundary Commission

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Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2003 12:27 PM
Subject: Unorganized Borough Review

Dear LBC:

Regarding the creation of new boroughs in the regions of review, the potential for taxation of recreational property is of concern to me.

Many seasonal users within these review areas actually reside within one of the organized boroughs. They only visit their remote parcels a few times a year for recreational purposes. Many are situated in such remote locations that access is limited to aircraft or ATV. Not only are these owners present for just a few days each summer season, their land use imposes virtually no cost to the region. They have no children attending schools there, no roads connect to their parcels, no utilities are available... In short, there are no services available now, nor would there be after the creation of a local government. And yet, there appears to be a high likelihood that a property tax would be imposed! Most owners already pay property tax in their home boroughs. So, they could end up paying tax for education and other services to both regions, but only receiving benefits in one.

I have no problem with the concept of universal education and have willingly supported it in the Fairbanks North Star Borough before, during and after the period when my kids attended public schools. But, to contribute both here and to some other jurisdiction that I only visit periodically and from which I can never enjoy any services is preposterous. Given that the stated objective of creating new boroughs is to *more fairly* spread the cost of education among all residents of Alaska, I find this particular aspect very disturbing.

Yours truly,

Al Near